April 1974

2p

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

APRIL 1974

BIBLICAL CROSSWORD No.1

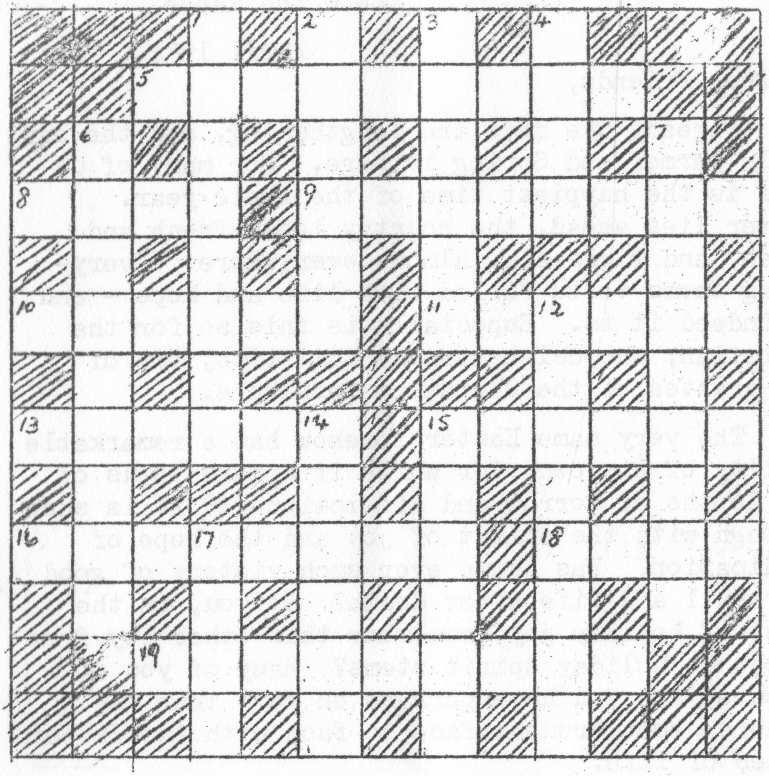
CLUES:

ACROSS

5. Birthplace of Jesus. (9)
8. Saints wear them. (4)
9. -------- The Sabbath Day to keep it Holy (8)
10. Enemy of Israel (6)
11. Luminous cloud. (6)
13. Jesus said 'Go ... ... no more' (3, 3)
15. Sister of Moses (6)
16. Priest O/T. (3)
17. Place of Sacrifice. (5)
18. Murdered by his brother. (4)
19. Mother of King Solomon. (9)

DOWN

1. Wife of Herod Antipas. (8)
2. Rose of Palestinian Plain. (6)
3. Mt. of Transfiguration. (6)
4. His tunic was without .... (4)
6. I waited ..... for the Lord. (9)
7. Capital City of Palestine, built on a hill. (9)
12. Mother of Jesus. (4)
14. Negative. Feminine Gender. (3, 3)
15. Sister of Lazarus. (6)
17. Steard of a Garden. (4)
18. Father. (Hebrew) (4)



This competition is open to all members of our church at Milnrow and Littleborough, with the exception of the following:

(a) Ordained ministers
(b) Accredited Lay Preachers
(c) Immediate families of the above.

The compiler feels that these members would have an unfair advantage.

A Book Token will be awarded for the first correct entry opened. Entries to be in by 14th April 1974. To: Mrs. E. Gillon, 18 Ashfield Lane.

From the Manse,

April 1974.

My Dear Friends,

Already the days are lengthening, and the sun feels warmer and Spring is here, For many of us this is the happiest time of the whole year. Summer lies ahead, the country looks fresh and green, and birds sing almost everywhere. Everything seems to be filled with life and hope - and so indeed it is. Especially is this so for the Christian, who celebrates at this time, one of the greates of the Christian festivals.

The very name Easter somehow has a remarkable quality of its own, for while it speaks to us of the depths of sorrow and affliction yet it is shot through with the spirit of joy and the hope of vindication. Was there ever such victory of good over evil and life after death? Do you, in the midst of holiday joy, remember this other joy from which our holiday spirit stems? Many of you do I am sure, for you have perhaps on more than one occasion been brought face to face with the deeper issues of life.

Troubles sorrows and bereavements come to us all and the Christian meets them with the Easter hope in his heart, secure in the knowledge that they cannot overcome him and that death and tears are not the end. As one writer says, "The dead are not dead; it is only we who think they are." The life of Jesus did not end with the Cross but continued with and from the Resurrection. Easter may mean Spring, but more than this it means God with us in and through our darkest hours, bringing in Jesus Christ, victory over evil and sin and death. It is in Him that we have our Easter hope.

"This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow,
My love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life
this sorrow."

May faith in Jesus Christ be your this Eastertide.

God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month

Jesus said: "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE."
(John 11: v.25)

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HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday March 17th at St. Stephen's:
JANET, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Holden,
37, Cornfield Street, Milnrow.

++ May God richly bless this little child ++

OBITUARY

Mr. THOMAS FINLAY ANDERSON, of 21 Egremont Road, Milnrow, who died at Birch Hill Hospital on March 5th, aged 54.
We send our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Anderson and relatives.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"
Our Minister conducted the funeral service at Rochdale Crematorium.

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Slogan for this year given by our Minister:

"OUR BEST FOR CHRIST"

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Last month's Know your Bible Competition was won by Elaine Cudworth. Congratulations, Elaine!
Look out for further "K.B.C's" soon!

Please Note:
Material for May Messenger required by
17th April

OPERATION "WASTE PAPER"

The Junior Church staff are holding a "Waste Paper Drive" in order to raise money for Junior Church equipment.

You are asked to save all your newspapers, etc., tie them into bundles, and keep until collection dates are announced. Will you then please inform any member of the staff who will then arrange to have it collected.

MAUD MUDDLES THROUGH

The thirty four ladies who attended the Guild meeting on March 5th were dissappointed to hear that Councillor Billy Edwards was unable to speak due to conflicting arrangements. However, Mrs. Nash stepped into the breach with an impromtue slide show in which she showed that she knew London and the Home Counties inside out and upside down! She displayed all the projectionist skills of a parson's wife but despite everything provided a most pleasant evening's entertainment. Despite the teasing the Ladies fully appreciated and enjoyed Mrs, Nash's noble effort.

The next Guild meeting will be on April 2nd when the speaker will be from the Family Service Unit former of Rochdale and now of Greater Milnrow. Later in the month, on the 23rd a more fully prepared Mrs. Nash will address our Annual Rally

The WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE are holding a
"Coffee Morning and Evening"
at the home of Mrs. P. Royle, 24 Ladyhouse Close, on Tuesday 30th April.
Tickets at 10p each will be available from committee: Mrs. Garside, Miss Wood, Mrs. Emmott, Mrs. Howarth, Mrs. Royle, Mrs. Baines.
Coffee served from 10.0 -11.30 am. & 7.0-9.0 pm.
One ticket admits you to either session.
Also Bring & Buy Stall

HE IS ALIVE - and WITH US!

Procula: Centurion, were you at the killing of that teacher today?

Longinus: Yes, lady.....

Procula: Was he suffering much?

Longinus: No lady, he wasn't a strong man. The scourging must have nearly killed him. I thought he was dead by noon, and then suddenly he began to sing in a loud voice that he was giving his spirit back to God. I looked to see God come to take him. He died singing. Truly, lady, that man was the Son of God, if one may say that..... He believed he was God, they say.

Procula: What do you think of that claim?

Longinus: If a man believes anything up to the point of dying on the cross for it, he will find others to believe it.

Procula: Do you believe it?

Longinus: He was a fine young fellow, my lady, and he was all alone and defied all the Jews and the Romans, and when we had done with him, he was a poor broken down thing, dead on a cross.

Procula: Do you think he is dead?

Longinus: No lady, I don't.

Procula: Then where is he?

Longinus: LET LOOSE IN THE WORLD, LADY, WHERE NEITHER ROMAN NOR JEW CAN STOP HIS TRUTH.

(John Masefield)

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WHY DO WE ASSUME ?

(Reply to question posed in our February edition)

"In such a world as this, why do we assume that Christianity will not be believed?"

Why does God let this that or the other tragedy or disaster, trouble or anguish happen? If He's a God of love as you say He is, why doesn't He do something about that state of the world.

Too often these words or similar ones, are heard. The ordinary man in the street is quite right to question the Presence of God for it would appear frequently that God has deserted His world and that Christianity is a lot of 'eye-wash'.

Lack of Faith
Lack of Trust
Lack of Belief
Lack of Love

bring with them the assumption that Christianity will not be believed.

We, as Christians, must speak to others of the Love of God and of His saving Power - but if we approach the non-believer in a doubting manner then it will not be possible to help him at all.

Today too much is assumed and if we can assume that Christianity will not be believed why should we not assume that it COULD be believed.

If we were more positive in our thinking and acting then God would be able to do mighty things through us and the Non believer could become a Believer.

Maud Nash

LITTLE NUMBER ENTITLED .....

Unfortunately, the first Ladies Sunday for three years was upset to some extent by the depletion of numbers brought about by a dreaded 'flu epidemic. Nevertheless, those who attended sang with as much throaty gusto as possible to compensate. Both services were conducted by Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Hill played the organ. The choir had been well drilled by Mrs. Cockcroft for their rendering of "Amazing Grace,""How Great Thow Art", "Just as I am", and "He Lives."

ON YOUR MARKS

Plans are well underway for the Junior Church Anniversary which is to be held on Sunday, 28th April, and a report on progress was given at the Junior Church A.G.M., when all existing officers were re-elected. Details of the Anniversary are as follows:

10.30 am. "ON YOUR MARKS" a Pageant
(written by Rev. Glyn Jenkins B.A. B.D.)

6.00 pm. Evening Worship

Preacher: REV. J.K. RAMAGE (Trinity U.R.C.)
Organist: Mr. ARTHUR CLEGG

Special singing at both services.

SLIGHTLY DOWN HILL

At the February meeting of the Women's Guild Mrs. Nash was appointed President in succession to Mrs. M.G. Hill who continues to serve as Treasurer and Vice-President. Mrs. Hill has been President for 21 years and rarely missed a meeting in that time. We are most grateful for her long and continuing service and would like to take this opportunity of expressing our gratitude

HELP

Due to illness and other reasons we find ourselves short of helpers this year for the annual House to House Collection in aid of The National Children's Home. This is a Christian cause which is worthy of Your urgent concern. So if you can offer any help whatsoever in this task to be completed in the fortnight commencing 15th April, please have a word with Mrs. K. Hill as soon as possible.

OILY TRINITY

The cost of oil has trebled. Remember that the church heating is oil-fired too.

MEN MEET

There was a good attendance at the February meeting of the Men's Fellowship when the speaker was the Rev. J.B. Darntrough. Rev. A. Nash introduced and thanked the speaker and after the talk tea and biscuits were consumed.

(Do they ever do anything else at Littleborough other than eat? - Editor)

AUTUMN FAIR - 23rd NOVEMBER

Coupons are now on sale -

- Coupon Secretary: Mrs. E.Crossley

Help the Church - Help yourself - start buying now!

PILOTS ON THE WIRRAL

From the evening of Friday 1st March until Sunday evening, 3rd March, seven pilots aged between 10 and 14 years, went from Littleborough to attend the Pilot Camp at Barnston Dale on the Wirral Penninsular. Those who went appear to have had a splendid time (as they explain on the next page) and they would like to take this oppotunity of thanking the Church for the support it gave in allowing them to attend.

PILOT CAMP - AN ANTHOLOGY

"At first when I arrived at camp I found myself quite lonely and everything was hostile. The first thing that happened was the welcome. In this John briefed us on what Pilots was truly about and introduced all the different companies to each other...."

"I think camp is great fun and a place to meet new friends and old friends. There was a disco on Saturday night which would be better if more people went....."

"It means enjoyment for everyone. We have games and competitions which are very light-hearted like knobbly knees contests. We also make lots of new friends by being put in watches so that there is a mixture of different Pilot companies. It also introduces a sense of duty and responsibility....."

"I discovered that I had to do chores such as washing up after dinner. These were good because some people may be unable to do this at home....(sic)"

"An important part of the camp was the missionary talks and films of Botswana. The missionary was Edy Williams who brought us all bible booklets which were very interesting.....

"One night we had a water fight with the lads. We made water bombs out of plastic bags, tied a knot at the top and chucked them at the boys and the boys did the same thing to us. I liked it when Marshall said "Little Miss Muffett" pretending to be a child in the crazy competition....."

"Going back home was great until the big goodbye came. The girls all had large handerchieves out. We enjoyed camp....."

The above quotations are drawn from the literary works of Mark Grindrod, Wendy Law, Beverley Allison, Beverley Merrick, Andrea Stretton and Lindsay Merrick.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

April	7th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
	14th	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
	21st	Mr. J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
	28th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
May	5th	Mr. L Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae

ELDERS ROTA EVENING DOOR STEWARDS			ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
April	7th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. A. Clegg
	12th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. D. Lynch
	14th	NO EVENING SERVICE	
	21st	Mr. R. Gillon	Mrs. E. Starkie
	28th	**NO EVENING SERVICE**	
MAY	5th	Miss M. Wood	Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

April	11th	Mr. B. Clough	Mr. K. Hey	7.30 pm.
	21st	Mrs. N.Settle	Miss M. Wood	11.00 am.
May	5th	Mr. A.Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott	6.00 pm.

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

April	7th	Mrs. J.Duffy	Mrs. F. Butterworth
	14th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. A. Collins
	21st	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
	28th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
May	5th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
Feb. 3rd	4.21½	3.04	11.35½	18.61
10th	4.39	1.00	7.86	13.25
17th	4.51	7.11	19.60½	31.22½
24th	4.50	1.25	12.61½	18.36½
	£17.61½	£12.40	£51.43½	£81.45

CHURCH DUTIES -- LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

April	7th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. E. Holt
	14th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mrs. Stott
	21st	Mr. J. Holt	Mrs. Crossley
	28th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. F. Ingham
May	5th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. H.N. Hill

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

April 14th Mr, Ingham ... Mr. Lord 6.0 pm.

COFFEE ROTA

April	7th	W. Spinks	B. Leach
	14th	J. Simpson	L. Kelsall
	21st	B. Holt	L. Butterworth
	28th	J. Hobbs	S. Moss
May	5th	J. Allison	D. Mallinson

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

April	7th	"Palm Sunday" Matthew 21: 1 - 9	K. Hill
	14th	"Easter Welcome" John 20: 11 - 18	M. Grindrod
	21st	"Fishermen renewed" John 21: 1 - 13	H. Vincent
	28th	"Travellers renewed" Luke 24: 13- 35	--
May	5th		S. Moss

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ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

April

Mon. 1st	6.30 pm.	Pilots and each Monday
Tues.2nd	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild: Mrs.C.M. Bent
Wed. 3rd	7.30 pm.	Mid-Week Fellowship
Thur.4th	7.30 pm.	District Women's Rally at: Trinity U.R.C. Rochdale.
Fri. 5th	7.30 pm.	District Meeting at: Union St.U.R.C. Oldham.

HOLY WEEK

Sun. 7th		PALM SUNDAY
	11.00 am.	Family Worship - Pilots enrolment and Promotion Service.
	6.00 pm.	Stainer's "CRUCIFIXION" presented by the choir
Wed.10th	7.30 pm.	Elders meeting
Thur.11th	7.30 pm.	MAUNDY THURSDAY Service of Word & Sacrament
Fri.12th	9.30 am.	30 min.service for GOOD FRIDAY
	6.30 pm.	"THE SIXTH HOUR" Presented in church
Sun.14th	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Jeffrey (no evening serv.)
Mon.15th	11.30 am.	Family Church RAMBLE
Fri.19th	8.00 pm.	Finance Committee Mtg.
Sun.21st	11.00 am.	Family Worship & Communion with reception of new members
	6.00 pm.	Rev. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
Tue.23rd	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild Rally: Mrs. Nash
Sun.28th	11.00 am.	Mr. D. Jones
		No evening service (LITTLEBOROUGH ANNIVERSARY)
Tue.30th	10.00-11.30 am.	Coffee Morning)at 24
	7.00-9.00 pm.	" Evening)Ladyhouse Cl.

May

Sun. 5th	11.00am.	Rev.A.Nash (Recept.of CWM Boxes)
	6.00 pm.	" (Service of Word & Sacrament)

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

April 7th	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. E. Galvin
14th	Mrs. P. Royle	Mrs. C. Clough
21st	Mrs. B. Stott	Mrs. A. Prestwich
28th	Mrs. C. Rothwell	Mrs. A. Lynch
May 5th	Mrs. E. Gowdridge	

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

April

Wed. 3rd	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thur.4th		Reception of Jumble
Fri. 5th	7.00 pm.	JUMBLE SALE for World Mission and Junior Church
Sun. 7th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Wed.10th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Fri.12th	10.45 am.	GOOD FRIDAY Service at Methodist Church
Sun.14th	10.30 am.)	EASTER DAY
	6.00 pm.)	Rev. A. Nash (Communion)
Mon.15th		Commencement of fortnight House to House Collection for National Children's Home.
Tues.16th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild
Wed. 17th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thur.18th	7.30 pm.	Mr. J. Lord
Sun. 21st	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nash
Wed. 24th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 28th	10.30 am.)	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
	6.00 pm.)	Rev. J.K. Ramage

May

Wed. 1st	6.45 pm.	Pilots

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

April 7th	Mrs. Priestley
14th	Mrs. Barker
21st	Mrs. Hill
28th	Junior Church
May 5th	Mrs. R. Holt

MINISTER:

Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.,
The Manse,
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Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

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CHURCH SECRETARIES:

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HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

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